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**Mary Bono Mack**  
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November 17, 2011

Mr. Roger French  
West Bank Homeowners Association  
P.O. Box 970  
Blythe, California 92226

Dear Mr. French:

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the West Bank Homeowners Association (WBHA) regarding the western boundary of the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT). I appreciate your patience, as well as the patience of all the members of the association, while awaiting a response. I also appreciate your many years of hard work on this issue and ask that you share this response with the other members of the WBHA.

As you know, the status of the western boundary of the CRIT reservation has been contested for many years and has caused great tension between non-Indians residing along the western bank of the Colorado River and the members of the CRIT. For this reason, I consulted all relevant federal agencies to gain a greater understanding of the many questions raised by the various parties to this dispute.

- According to a letter dated February 24, 2011, the U.S. Department of Interior's position on this issue has been, since at least January 17, 1969, and continues to be that the Reservation extends into California and includes a certain portion of the west bank of the Colorado River (attachment #1).
- The U.S. Department of Justice reaffirmed the U.S. Department of Interior's position in a letter dated March 7, 2011, and stated that this position has been consistently argued in court (attachment #2).

In addition to consultation with the relevant federal agencies, I directed my staff to research this matter with objective legal experts, including an independent and nationally respected tribal law attorney and scholar, congressional staff at the committees of jurisdiction, and the Congressional Research Service (CRS). At this time, legislation further establishing the reservation boundary is unlikely, and I will not be introducing legislation at the request of the WBHA or the CRIT.

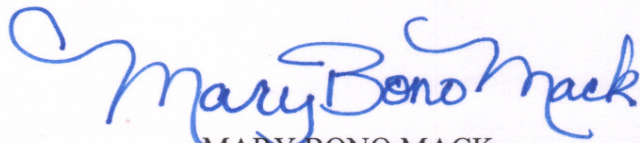
If you have further questions regarding the legal basis of the federal government's interpretation, I encourage you to contact either the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Interior.



I have a keen understanding of this very sensitive matter and appreciate how deeply it impacts all parties involved. For that reason, I hope that this issue can be settled in a way that is beneficial for both residents and the tribe. As you know, I have encouraged all parties to work together to resolve the issues of contention in a positive and mutually acceptable manner – and I will continue to work with all parties to encourage such an outcome.

Once again, thank you sharing your concerns. Please be assured that I will keep your views in mind as I work with both parties to encourage an amicable resolution to an issue that for too long has caused divisions within our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Bono Mack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

MARY BONO MACK  
Member of Congress